

NATIONAL

Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum



Hall of Fame Banquet

April 17, 2005

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter**

**Class of 2005
Induction Ceremony
April 17, 2005**

Master of Ceremonies

**Ken Bernabe
National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter**

Invocation

**Howie O'Neil
National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter**

Welcome

**Frank A. Mosier
President, Board of Directors
National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter**

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
Awards Presentation**

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

John M. Allen

Vince Fitz

Anthony J. Gentile Sr.

Joseph J. Krufka

Cliff Loysen

Bob Mizerek

Outstanding American

Julio M. Fuentes

Closing Remarks.....Frank A. Mosier

New Jersey Chapter Mission Statement

The future of American Society depends upon the existence of a strong citizenry comprised of individuals with leadership qualities based upon self-discipline, self-reliance and self-confidence. The sport of wrestling helps build these characteristics in youth, regardless of their physical, economic, cultural, or geographic backgrounds. The National Hall of Fame seeks to broaden the understanding and development of these values in the following manner:

1. Through recognition of those who have demonstrated these characteristics while achieving or developing excellence in the sport as wrestlers, coaches, and contributors.
2. Through recognition of those who have demonstrated these characteristics while achieving excellence in other walks of life after participating in wrestling.
3. Through the maintenance of documentation of those memorabilia that depicts and preserves the history of the sport.
4. Through the stimulation and encouragement of those who establish and conduct wrestling activities at all levels nationwide.
5. Through the development of State Chapters that will continuously strive to enhance the image of the sport of wrestling at the state and national levels.

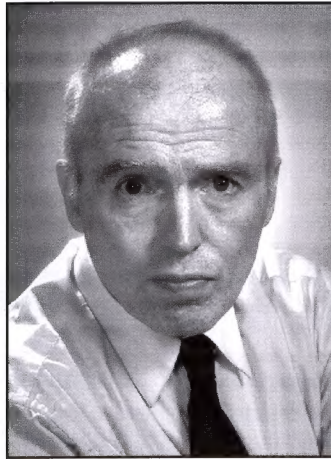
Class of 2005

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

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John M. Allen

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

John Allen began his lifetime commitment to sports some 50 years ago at St. Benedict's Prep. where as a student he excelled in three sports: football, wrestling, and baseball. The school recognized his excellent qualities by awarding him the prestigious Presidential Award for his "ability in leadership, proficiency in scholarship, and versatility in athletics." Following prep.school John attended Seton Hall University on a baseball scholarship graduating in 1958. But before graduation, in John's sophomore year, he served as an assistant football coach and began coaching wrestling at St. Benedict's, thus began a lifelong love affair with wrestling.

His immediate success as a novice coach was phenomenal. While helping the legendary Joe Kasberger maintain the excellence of the school's football program, John, in three years, led his wrestling team to the New Jersey State Prep School Championship which they won the next six out of seven years. By 1962 the team had established itself as the premier Prep school program in the nation by winning the National Prep School Championship. From 1959 to 1962 the St. Benedict's Prep wrestling team accumulated 40 consecutive dual match wins over public, private, and parochial competition. The 1961-62 teams unbelievably had its first seven weight classes filled with National Prep or State Prep AAU Champions.

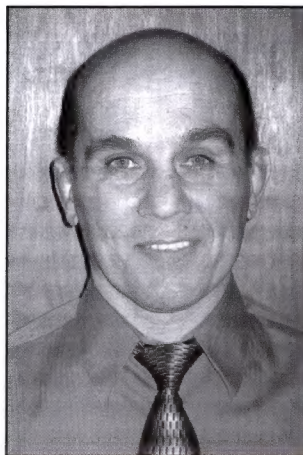
John coached 30 individual state prep champions and seven national prep champions, the foremost being Mike Caruso who recorded an 81-0 high school record before earning three NCAA championships at Lehigh University, the first individual to accomplish that feat at the storied Lehigh school. Caruso, who had never wrestled, in fact never seen a wrestling match until he met John Allen, earned a lifetime record of 152-2 with both of his defeats eventually avenged. Caruso never took less than a gold from any tournament he entered in prep school or college. And, of course, it is John Allen whom Caruso credits with teaching him the basic skills necessary for success as well as instilling in him the desire to win.

Football, wrestling, baseball – at St. Benedict's Prep, Vailsburg High School, Seton Hall University, Essex Catholic Boy's High School, Summit High School, Seton Hall Prep, Kean College and Weehawkin High School. Wherever John taught and coached - at the public, private, parochial schools, at the high school or college level, in both urban and suburban settings - he provided youth with positive learning experiences that extended to life long experiences for success. He has set an example of honesty, integrity and fairness by modeling behavior that promotes the highest competitive nature of sport within the mantle of the rules and good sportsmanship. His respect for athletes, coaches, parents and officials promoted a positive environment conducive to all that is good about athletics. A John Allen team was always well coached, highly competitive, respectful of the rules and consistently displayed good sportsmanship.

John Allen has always been grateful to his mentor, the venerable and legendary Joe Kasberger, who gave John direction and example when as a youth John played football and baseball for him at St. Benedict's Prep. John feels fortunate to have coached under his idol. He has always viewed his wonderful parents and Joe Kasberger as humble people to whom he will be forever indebted to for their wisdom and guidance. Certainly, John's parents and Joe Kasberger would be justifiably proud of John.

John has won numerous honors and awards throughout the years including: National Football Hall of Fame; Newark Athletic Hall of Fame; St. Benedict's Prep Hall of Fame; Seton Hall's Hall of Fame; 1970 Star-Ledger Football Coach of the Year; Herald News and Worrell Publications Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1976, 1985, and 1986; and in 1982 Worrell baseball Coach of the Year. He received the Harry E. Lake Award for his commitment to wrestling in New Jersey. John presently serves as a member of the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame Committee and the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey.

John is an exceptional individual. He has devoted his life in working with young people through athletics: teaching the skills and attitudes fundamental for success in sports but more importantly teaching his players how to win with humility and lose with grace and dignity. Discipline has been the centerpiece of Allen's teachings and the cornerstone of all of his teams. For John winning was never more important to him than doing the right thing. John Allen has always enjoyed the reputation of being a gentleman coach who brought credit to his profession, teams, schools, community and family. He is a superb example for both coaches and athlete.



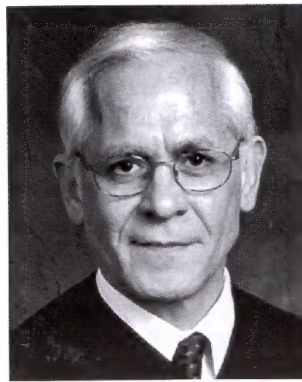
Vince Fitz

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Vince Fitz wrestled for two Hall of Fame Coaches: Russ Riegel at Hunterdon Central High School and Bill Kohl at Penn State University. At Hunterdon Central he earned the enviable career record of 61-7-3, highlighted with a record of 22-0 his senior year and a State Championship at 136 pounds in 1964. At Penn State he continued to excel, earning three varsity letters and accumulating a college record of 38-11-1. In 1967, in keeping with his aggressive style, he received the Charles Speidel Award for earning the most team points. He placed second and had two third place finishes in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships.

His first coaching experiences came at Columbia University where he served for three years as an assistant coach, but it was his arrival at Delaware Valley High School where his skills in working with young men came to the fore. He coached at Del Val from 1971 through 1990 taking a small rural community with little experience in wrestling to become one of the elite wrestling programs in New Jersey. His team career record is 284-60-3. Ten of his teams were ranked in the top ten winning seven Central Jersey Group II Championships, six Group II State Championship Titles, five Conference Titles and earning the 1984 Star Ledger Trophy as the number one team in New Jersey. Individually, Vince coached three wrestlers to four State Championships, two of whom won Outstanding Wrestling Awards: Jeff Segreaves and Jamie Wicks.

Vince is proud of many of his former wrestlers who have been highly successful in life and continue to contribute to the development of wrestling in their community. He is especially proud of two outstanding wrestlers on the 1984 team: urologist Dr. Andy Crowder a graduate of Columbia University and Grant Gould, a Brown graduate and now financial advisor. Of course, he has a special place in his heart for his son, Andy, a Lehigh engineering graduate, who earned four varsity letters and placed fourth in the EIWA. Vince has been recognized as Coach of the Year on six occasions and is a member of the Region V Hall of Fame, Hunterdon Central Wall of Fame and is a recipient of the Penn State Wrestling Alumnus of the Year Award in 1984.



Judge Julio M. Fuentes

Outstanding American

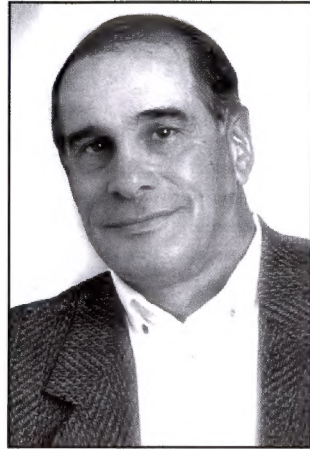
As a boy, Julio could not have imagined that the dirt road outside his family's Lakehurst chicken farm would lead him to one of the most coveted position in our country: Judge of the 3rd United States Circuit Court of Appeals, the second highest court of the judiciary, one step from the Supreme Court.

Fuentes was born in Puerto Rico. He moved as a small child to New York City with his mother and brother and shortly thereafter to a five bedroom farm in Lakehurst sharing the house with cousins. At Toms River High School he excelled as a student and athlete. It was in wrestling where he learned the importance of establishing goals and then working conscientiously to accomplish them. With hard work, commitment, and athletic skill, he earned a District and Regional Championships in 1964. He had a career record of 32-3 and was undefeated his senior year until the state finals, where he placed second in the tournament.

Fuentes attended Southern Illinois University where he earned his BA. In 1975 he received his J. D. from the State University of New York and was admitted to the New Jersey bar the same year. He continued his formal education earning Masters Degrees at both New York University and Rutgers University. Within two years he opened his own law firm: Fuentes, Plant, and Velazquez in Newark.

With his appointment by President Clinton and confirmation by the United States Senate, Fuentes became the first Hispanic appointed to the United States Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. As one of a dozen active judges on the 3rd Circuit, he hears appeals on every possible criminal and civil issue arising from the District Courts in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands. Superior Court Judge Donald Volkert, Jr., who worked with him for eight years, describes Fuentes as extraordinary. "He is one of the most honorable and decent persons I have ever met in my life."

Fuentes credits his mother, Trinidad Mercado, for her unselfish efforts in providing the foundation, example, and love that enabled him to fulfill the American dream. To provide for her two sons she worked sixteen hours a day, an eight hour shift as a practical nurse in a hospital and then eight hours a day of private duty in the community. His respect for her courage, strength, and sacrifice knows no bounds and tells us much about the Judge himself. Another strong force in the Judge's life is his family: his lovely wife, Olma, and their three wonderful daughters: Lily, Karina, and Olma who provided love and support to enrich his life and enable him to succeed so dramatically.



Anthony J. Gentile, Sr.

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Tony Gentile set the foundation for one of the most successful scholastic wrestling programs in New Jersey. Gentile did this as a school boy wrestler and later as a coach and administrator of youth programs that benefited not only Paulsboro but also communities throughout southern New Jersey. Gentile finished second in the South Jersey championships in 1956 and capped his scholastic career in 1957 by winning the 130 pound state championship. Gentile enlisted in the U.S. Army where he continued with wrestling and won the regimental championship.

Following his service time, Gentile returned to Paulsboro. He stayed active as a wrestler several years in AAU competition and also officiated for five years. From 1964 through 1978 Gentile was in charge of the Paulsboro Junior Wrestling Program. His teams won over 300 straight dual meets without a loss and won every division of the Gloucester County Championships during his tenure. In 1971 he joined the Gloucester County College coach Chuck Williamson to start the Gloucester County Junior Wrestling League. He helped form the Paulsboro Wrestling Association, a support group for wrestling, serving three years as its president. He helped form the Junior Wrestling League in Salem and Camden counties and was instrumental in bringing AAU age group wrestling to New Jersey. He served on the AAU Executive Board and was the state's first District/Regional Director of Age Group Wrestling.

Gentile played a major role in helping the newly formed 7th/8th grade program in Paulsboro and served as a volunteer coach from 1980-84. A 1985 inductee into the South Jersey Hall of Fame, Gentile served 12 years as a member of the Paulsboro Board of Education. He is a member of the Courier-Post's All Century Wrestling team, the Paulsboro High School Hall of Fame, and the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame.



Joseph J. Krufka

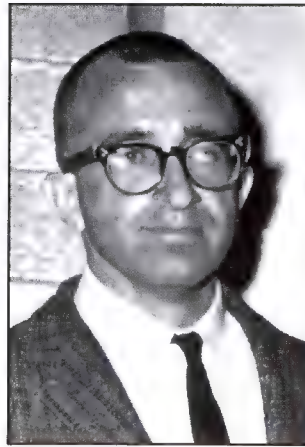
Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Joe Krufka is a man whose life was intricately involved with wrestling. He began his wrestling career in 1946 at Plymouth High School, Plymouth, Pennsylvania in the wrestling-rich Wyoming Valley. After graduation, he entered the Navy and soon qualified for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, an experience he relished. His accomplishments as a wrestler are significant: four times Wilkes Open Champion, Rhode Island AAU champion, New England AAU Champion, placed second and third in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling tournament and second and third in the NCAA Championships. His losses in the NCAA championships were to the legendary Dan Hodge.

Joe wrestled for Hall of Famer Charlie Speidel at Penn State University where he was an All American selection in 1954 and 1955. Following graduation, he went on to coach high school and college wrestling in Morris County during a nearly four decade teaching career. He started the wrestling program at Hanover Park and the college program at Fairleigh Dickson University at Madison. To promote wrestling, he started the first Morris County Novice Tournament and conducted many clinics throughout Morris County. Somehow he managed to squeeze in time as a wrestling official and worked District and State level competition as well as college matches.

A talented and respected teacher, Krufka was selected as the New Jersey Industrial Arts Teacher of the Year in 1975. But his heart remained in wrestling as a coach and official. When you wrestled for Coach Krufka, you became one of his family. His demeanor, personality, and example conveyed the notion that wrestling is more than a sport; it's discipline, sacrifice, cooperation, and a strong work ethic, characteristics needed for success in life. Those who wrestled for him grew to appreciate the values he shared as they matured into adulthood.

Krufka received many awards and honors most notably the Penn State Distinguished Alumni Award, North East Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, the Wall of Fame at Fairleigh Dickson University at Madison, and the induction as a charter member into the Morris County Hall of Fame.



Cliff Loysen

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Cliff Loysen has been active in wrestling as a coach, clinician, and official for nearly forty years. His first exposure to wrestling came at the Rutgers University College Avenue gym where he would quietly, unobtrusively, appear at practice and watch Coach Dick Voliva's team go through their paces during daily practices. He also credits Olympian and National Champion Lee Merrill and Bill Farrell, the former U.S Olympic coach, with help in understanding the fundamental skills of the sport. Cliff quickly fell in love with wrestling and became a student of the sport. Who would know that this man, a man with no background or experience in wrestling, would in ten years emerge as one of the most respected coaches in New Jersey?

Loysen started wrestling programs at both Edison and J.P. Stevens High Schools. In thirteen years his teams posted a record of 120-34-1. During the last ten years his team record was 92-15-1. From 1964 thru 1970 Loysen's teams captured eight consecutive District team titles and five consecutive Middlesex County Tournament titles. In consecutive years he had his entire team in the District finals. His wrestler's individual accomplishments are just as impressive: 13 wrestlers in the final four of the State Tournament, 5 state champions, and 2 Outstanding Wrestler Awards, 3 third place finishers, and 2 fourth places finishers.

In addition to his success as a high school coach, Cliff also made contributions to the sport of wrestling by coaching the inexperienced wrestlers at the middle school level and by officiating. He has officiated at all levels of the state tournament series from the Districts thru the States. He served as President of the wrestling officials Central Chapter, and for ten years he taught inexperienced officials in the important role of Cadet Supervisor.

A humble, gentle man Cliff has made significant contributions to wrestling not only in Middlesex County but throughout New Jersey. Aware of this, his peers have recognized him with induction into the Region V Hall of Fame and as the recipient of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Award of Honor for Lifetime Service.



Bob Mizerek

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Bob Mizerek started his wrestling career under the legendary Mike Schibanoff at Bound Brook High School. With characteristic drive, energy, and enthusiasm he posted an unbeaten dual meet record. He was a runner-up in the 115 pound weight class at the State Tournament in 1956. After graduation, he attended Montclair State College, which had abandoned wrestling, and led the charge to resurrect the wrestling program. Initially, he started a wrestling club and then urged the administration to reinstate wrestling. With his boundless energy and positive attitude, he recruited student athletes to join him in wrestling at Montclair. At college he continued his mat successes remaining undefeated in club and varsity competition winning the Metropolitan Collegiate Championship three years.

His success as a college coach is even more dramatic. After graduating from Montclair State, he became the head wrestling coach at Rutgers-Newark, a position he held for twenty-one years. In his first year he led a team that had not won a dual meet the previous year to a 3-4-1 season, ending a four year losing streak instilling in his wrestlers the will to win. In only his second year of coaching, the team recorded a 10-2 mark and won the Metropolitan Championship.

Mizerek coached for twenty-one years with only one losing season. His overall career record was 189-69 including four team championships and the accomplishment of coaching eight All Americans; this at a school that provides no wrestling scholarships. In recognition of his coaching excellence his peers twice selected him as Coach of the Year in the Metropolitan Conference. Mizerek also served as a wrestling official for 23 years working many of the most competitive high school matches as well as working all state tournament levels including the State finals.

In addition to his successes as a wrestling coach, Mizerek served as the Rutgers-Newark men's tennis coach from 1962 through 1999 and the women's coach from 1982 through 1999. His successes here are also indicative of the skills of an exceptional coach. The men had five undefeated seasons from 1984-88 which is the longest winning streak at Rutgers University for all sports. They won three Central Atlantic Conference titles, four New Jersey Athletic Conference titles, and two National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Championships. The women were undefeated in 1982 and won.

two New Jersey State Championships competing against all Divisions. In toto Bob Mizerek holds the Rutgers University record for most wins in all sports.

His honors are many and include induction into the Montclair University Hall of Fame and the Rutgers-Newark Hall of Fame.

National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum
New Jersey Chapter

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**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter
Class of 2001**

Sam Coursen

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Sam Coursen wrestled for Forty Fort High School in Forty Fort Pennsylvania where he won four PIAA District II titles and appeared in the PIAA finals all four years. He was the only wrestler in Wyoming Valley history to win every dual meet in four years of wrestling. He attended Springfield College and won the New England Championships four times. In 1952, he qualified for the Olympic team that competed in Helsinki, Finland. Sam was instrumental in developing wrestling in South Jersey as he coached wrestling in the Collingswood community for some 23 years. At Collingswood High School, his teams compiled a record of 126-47-7, going undefeated four years, winning eight conference titles and six District team titles. Sam exemplifies leadership in so many ways as can be seen through his active service for over a decade on the coaches Executive Committee, as co-founder and first chairman of Region 7 and 8 Coaches and Officials Association, and as chairman of the South Jersey Hall of Fame.

Sam Crosby

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Sam Crosby wrestled at Somerville High School where he won four District Championships and place four times in the State Tournament winning the State Championship in 1954. He also played quarterback on the football team and was named First Team All State quarterback. He attended Rutgers University participating in both football and wrestling winning the EIWA wrestling championship. Following graduation, Sam gave back to the sport of wrestling serving as a scholastic official for 40 years. He has served as Chief official at the State Tournament and New Jersey Wrestling Rule Interpreter for 22 years. During this time, he officiated at all levels of the State Tournament Series. Sam has served for eight years on the National Federation Wrestling Committee, most recently as chairman. During his career as a wrestling official, he also served as the President of the New Jersey Officials Association. He was recognized by Somerville High School with induction as a Charter Member of their Hall of Fame. Sam received his Doctorate from Rutgers University. Professionally, Sam was a Principal at the Middle School and High School Principal as well as Assistant Superintendent in Bridgewater-Raritan.

Ernie Finizio

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Ernie Finizio has been active in sports since he wrestled at Roselle Park High School. A graduate of Seton Hall University, Ernie returned to his hometown to coach wrestling for seven years, six as head coach compiling a record of 46-13 and winning a Garden State Conference Championship and District Championship. After earning a Master of Arts Degree in Administration and Supervision from Seton Hall, Ernie assumed the

principalship of Aldene Elementary School, a position he held for ten years. Aldene was renamed the Ernest J Finizio Jr. Elementary School in his honor in 1994. Ernie furthered his administrative responsibility by serving as Superintendent of Schools in the Roselle Park District until he assumed the position of Assistant Director of the NJSIAA and later Project Manager. Ernie has been an NJSIAA official in the following sports: football, baseball, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball, and wrestling. An excellent official, he excelled as a wrestling official working the most competitive matches and all levels of the tournament series for a number of years. He worked the State Finals ten times. When his days as an active wrestling official ended, he accepted the responsibility as the Tournament Director of the NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament for twenty-four years.

John Johnston

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

John Johnston learned his wrestling in Clearfield, Pennsylvania where he won the PIAA championship as a junior in 1952. He attended Penn State University and was a three-time EIWA titlist winning the National Championship as a junior and placing third the following year. Following graduation John coached at Steven's Trade School for six years, his teams posting a record of 49-9-1. He then moved on to coach at Princeton University for twenty-nine years with a record of 382-199-9. He coached ten Ivy League team championships and one EIWA team championship. John also officiated dual meets and tournaments at the college level. He served on the NCAA Wrestling Sports Committee for five years and as chairman for four. He continues his involvement in wrestling working with the NCAA in their Drug Testing Programs.

Michael Schibanoff

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

A 1935 graduate of Freehold High School, Mick Schibanoff coached at Thomas Jefferson High School and Bound Brook High School for a total of nineteen years. His major contribution to wrestling, however, is centered in the area of officiating where he made a major contribution with his knowledge, organization and leadership to the State of New Jersey and to the National level. He helped direct and organize the wrestling officials to help provide standards and procedures to the officials group. He was the first President of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association and served as a member of the EIWA Officials Association. Mike was an excellent official working competitive matches and all levels of the State Tournament including the finals for many years. He served as the NJ Rule Interpreter and Chief Referee at the NJSIAA tournament for years. He is responsible for writing the first wrestling rules book for interscholastic wrestling in the United States.

John Vogeding

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

In the nearly forty years since his graduation from Glassboro State College John Vogeding has been involved in the world of wrestling and the world of journalism. He taught for six years in Paulsboro Schools coaching three sports: wrestling, football, and track. He also has been active as a track official for thirty- three years and a football official for ten years. He left public education in 1968 to become sports editor at the

Woodbury Times and was promoted to Assistant Editor in 1969. His principal role in journalism has been with the Courier-Post in Cherry Hill where he worked for twenty-eight years, until his retirement at which time he held the position of Assistant Sports Editor. John is the tournament announcer and clerk for the District 29 Wrestling Tournament and has been one of the two announcers at the State Tournament. He is the original Assignor of the Southern Chapter of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association, serving in that capacity for ten years. He was selected Wrestling National Writer of the Year by Scholastic Wrestling News in 1983 and received the NJSIAA Award of Honor for journalism in 1985.

Tom Seitz

State Medal of Courage

Tom began wrestling at the age of nine after losing his leg in a lawn mower accident when he was five years old. His success on the mat began in his freshman year at Red Bank High School where he wrestled at 106 pounds for two seasons. Transferring to Red Bank Catholic High School where he continued to wrestle, he lost only one dual meet in four years of varsity wrestling competition. With great determination, discipline, and skill, he won the New Jersey State Wrestling title in 1974. He refused to let a major handicap get in the way of success in one of the toughest of individual sports. Seitz applied the values and attributes he learned through wrestling, as he became a forklift operator at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma. Today, by working hard and always striving to do his best, he has risen to become a sheet metal mechanic, a great trade with a promising future.

Michael Caruso

Outstanding American from New Jersey

A graduate of Lehigh University, Michael Caruso was a three time NCAA Champion at 123 pounds and during that time also won three EIWA titles. He is the only wrestler in history to win three EIWA and three NCAA titles. A graduate of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, Caruso enjoyed an unbeaten high school career with a record of 81-0, winning three New Jersey State Championships. At Lehigh, he was 57-1 and became their only three-time NCAA champion. He received the Lehigh University Leadership Trophy and was voted the top collegiate athlete from New Jersey. A successful businessman specializing in benefits management, Caruso is Founder and Principal of the Caruso Benefits Group. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Lehigh and chairman of the Entrepreneurship Advisory Board at Northampton Community College.

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter
Class of 2002**

Herbert Farrell

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Herbie Farrell wrestled at Roselle Park High School under the direction of "Pug" Williams, Roselle Park's first wrestling coach. At Roselle Park, Herbie posted a career record of 54-2, winning two State Championships. He was the tournament's first Outstanding Wrestler. As a high school student, Herb won the National AAU Championship; the first high school student to do so. He also won a National Championship as a college student at Indiana University. Herb Farrell's excellence in wrestling continued as the Cranford High School coach where his teams earned a record of 206-115-2. The 1981 team was undefeated and declared Union County Champions. During this coaching period, his wrestlers demonstrated a high level of ability as revealed with approximately 50 District Champions and 25 Region Champions. Two of his wrestlers won state championships and two received second place medals. In addition to his achievements as a coach, Farrell officiated at the college level in the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Robert Fredrick

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

One of the outstanding wrestling coaches in the nation, Bob Fredrick served 18 years as the coach of Paulsboro High School where his teams earned a record of 299-7-2. His teams had 14 undefeated seasons earning a number 1 ranking in New Jersey on four separate occasions; nine times selected as the number 1 team in southern New Jersey. During this incredible streak of undefeated seasons, Paulsboro established the New Jersey record for consecutive victories; 84 in one string and 96 in another. Other accomplishments include Colonial Conference Champs 16 times; District Champions 14 times; National JV consecutive wins record. Individually, Fredrick coached 77 District Champs, 41 Region Champs, and 5 State Champs. A highly impressive record when you consider that Paulsboro is classified as a Group 1 school, the group with the fewest number of students. Committed to wrestling, Bob has held a host of leadership positions including the Chairmanship of NJSIAA Wrestling and State Tournament Director, responsibilities he currently fills with his usual aplomb.

Russ Riegel

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Russ Riegel wrestled at Washington High School where he was a four-time New Jersey State finalist placing first two times. His record at Gettysburg College was 58-1. He won

the Middle Atlantic Conference Championship four times, selected as Outstanding Wrestler on two occasions. Riegel started the wrestling program at Hunterdon Central High School where he coached for 35 years. He initiated the Hunterdon Central Invitational Wrestling Tournament, the oldest secondary tournament in the nation. His dual meet career record in New Jersey is 533-89-6. His teams have 58 tournament wins. After retiring from Central, Riegel continued coaching in Kentucky where his teams have a record of 103-38-1. A highlight of the Hunterdon Central individual records indicates overall excellence with 10 State Champions, 57 Region Champions, and 159 District Champions. Russ is a member of the Gettysburg Hall of Fame, the Region V Hall of Fame, and in 1989 was named the USA Wrestling Man of the Year.

Walt Shallcross

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Walt Shallcross earned nine varsity letters in football, wrestling, and baseball at Roselle Park High School. He was selected all state in both football and baseball and earned a second place medal in the state wrestling tournament. At Rutgers University, he again lettered in three sports and served as captain of the football and wrestling teams. Upon graduation from Rutgers, Shallcross spent 17 years as the Union High School wrestling coach compiling a record of 155-19. During this time, he coached 20 New Jersey champions including three outstanding wrestlers. As Director of Athletics, he directed Region Tournaments and served as chief clerk of the State Tournament. His expertise in wrestling made him one of the most sought after clinicians in the sport.

T. Ralph "Pug" Williams

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Pug Williams is considered "Mr. Wrestling in New Jersey." He was the first wrestling coach of Roselle Park High School. His coaching record of 146-43-4 reveals only one losing season during 23 years of coaching. His teams captured the State Championship 3 times while he coached over 50 state champions. For 12 years, he served in the capacity of NJSIAA Tournament Director at a time of rapid growth in the sport of wrestling. A knowledge coach and exceptional communicator, Williams was a much sought after to conduct clinics for aspiring wrestlers. He started the Williams Wrestling Clinic and directed the Middle Atlantic States Wrestling Clinic in Pennsylvania for 12 years. As a wrestling pioneer, he is the first person selected for the prestigious Harry E. Lake Award in 1952; the first person to receive the NJSIAA Award of Honor; and a charter member of the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association serving as president. In 1972, he was inducted into the Amateur Wrestling Hall of Fame. In his honor, the award for the number one team in New Jersey is named for Ralph "Pug" Williams.

Michael DePiano

Medal of Courage

Mike DePiano coached wrestling at St. Benedict's Prep for 20 years during which time he produced some outstanding teams and individual wrestlers despite the fact that most wrestlers came to St. Benedict's with no wrestling background. His teams have earned 275 dual meet victories during his career in Newark including seven sectional titles and

five state championships. Mike has coached a number of individuals to championships including 40 District Champions, 10 Regional Champions, 2 NJSIAA State Champions, 20 Independent School State Champions, and 1 National Champion. During this string of successful wrestling experiences Mike encountered serious health problems requiring the transplant of the pancreas and kidney. Although ill, he continued to coach and contribute to his team's success. His positive attitude and determination, characteristics he acquired in the sport of wrestling, helped him battle with these health issues. During his distinguished career DiPiano has received many honors none more meaningful than having St. Benedict's recognizing him as an Honorary Alumnus and inducting him into their Hall of Fame

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter
Class of 2003**

Roy Baker

State Medal of Courage

Roy wrestled at Parsippany High School where he posted a 65-4 record winning the State Championship at heavyweight in 1970 when he defeated two wrestling giants each outweighing him by some 60 pounds. He never lost a high school or college dual meet at his weight class. At college, Roy became the MAC Champion and the East Coast Conference Champion at 190 pounds. He was a two time National Champion and an alternate on the Olympic team. Suffering from considerable shoulder pain, he nevertheless wrestled in the Pan Am games in San Juan in 1979 and earned a gold medal. The following year he was selected to the 1980 Olympic team. He was renowned for his athleticism, strength, and technique; a fearless wrestler. In January of 1996, while a New Jersey State Police Officer, he suffered life threatening injuries in attempting to foil a suspected drug deal. He was shot three times, yet managed to subdue his suspect by wrestling his gun away from him. The doctors believe that Baker's muscular development and mental toughness developed from his years of wrestling may have saved his life. Baker feels that "whatever character people want to confer on me is the result of what I learned from wrestling."

Dr. Fred Buechel

Outstanding American from New Jersey

Dr. Buechel began to wrestle at Seton Hall Prep in the early 1960's when wrestling at the Prep was in its infancy. An eager and enthusiastic athlete, he revealed a strong work ethic and desire to succeed that helped build a strong foundation for the new program. During his senior year he posted a record of 23-1 and won the State Championship. He continued his interest in wrestling at Seton Hall University where he had a record of 61-5-2. He was a three time Metropolitan Champion, won five New Jersey AAU Freestyle Championships, the AAU Greco-Roman title at 167 pounds, and placed seventh in the NCAA Championships. Dr. Buechel's professional success is as an Orthopedic Surgeon.

He received his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1971. Currently Dr. Buechel holds the position of Chief of Total Reconstructive and Arthritis Surgery Services at UMDNJ, a position he has held since 1980. He is president of South Mountain Orthopedic Associates, his private practice. An experienced and knowledgeable surgeon, Dr. Buechel has presented talks and written papers throughout the world. He has published some 600 papers that appeared in various medical, scientific, and engineering journals. Dr. Buechel, one of wrestling's biggest promoters, attributes the lessons he learned in wrestling to his success in life.

Frank Bennett

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Frank Bennett graduated from West Chester State College in 1936 and earned advanced degrees at Columbia University. He was a highly successful football coach at Fair Lawn High School his team's earning a record of 113-80-6 and winning four state championships: 1948, 51, 52, and 55. He was instrumental in starting wrestling at Liberty High School in Pennsylvania in 1928, Washington High School in New Jersey in 1936 and Fair Lawn in 1946. During the period of 1953 to 58 his wrestling teams compiled a record of 52-5 including a string of 26 dual meet wins. He is credited with producing Washington's (Warren Hills) and Fair Lawn's first state champions. Bennett was an enormous help in getting several Bergen County schools to initiate wrestling programs including East Paterson, Glen Rock, Ridgewood, and Woodridge. He also helped organize the first scholastic wrestling league in Bergen County. After coaching, he entered the world of officiating and soon became one of the state's outstanding officials working a number of New Jersey state finals as well as competitive college matches.

Fred Christ

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

An outstanding athlete at Union High School, Fred earned honors in football, wrestling and track. He attended F&M Academy Prep School where he wrestled to a National Prep School Championship and continued his involvement in track by placing second in the 220-yard low hurdles in the Eastern Prep School Championships. His contribution to New Jersey wrestling is immense. Coaching at Somerville High School for 23 years his teams compiled an outstanding record of 141-49 in dual meet competition, two undefeated seasons, seven District team championships, 1-second place State finish and one first place finish. Individually, 12 of his wrestlers won State Championships with two recognized as the outstanding wrestlers of the Tournament. An outstanding teacher, Fred Christ's face spreads to a huge grin whenever someone mentions one of his wrestlers, for his interests went far beyond the wins and losses. He was fiercely competitive, but believed above all in fair play and sportsmanship. He established a model of integrity, honesty, fairness, and sportsmanship that others tried to emulate. One of the most powerful indicators of Christ's contribution to wrestling is revealed in the number of his wrestlers who became coaches themselves. No fewer than 31 of his former wrestlers went on to become coaches. Fred Christ is a giant in the history of New Jersey wrestling.

Dave Edinger**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

Dave Edinger, a graduate of East Stroudsburg University, is in large measure responsible for the growth and development of wrestling in South Jersey. In 1939 Dave initiated wrestling at Overbrook High School and later he started the sport at Collingswood High School where he remains head coach for many years. During this time, he developed Collingswood into one of the prominent programs in New Jersey. Not only was Dave a successful coach, but he displayed consistent excellence as an official.. Without question, he was the premier official in South Jersey working the most competitive matches and selected repeatedly to officiate the Districts, Regions, and State Tournament finals. Aware of the need to organize officials, Dave helped establish an officials' association and served as Chairman of the South Jersey Officials and Coaches Association. Dave was a man of impeccable character who approached issues in a straightforward, disciplined manner. He has been described as a man who walked the line of integrity and dignity every day, serving as a role model for many. Dave Edinger was a man who loved wrestling and gave unselfishly of himself to help others throughout his career.

John Goles**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

Goles began his coaching career as a football coach at Washington High School in 1944 and promptly coached two undefeated seasons. But his real gift to Warren Hills-Washington High School came as the highly successful wrestling coach from 1944 through 1979. Over a period of 36 years, he amassed an enviable record of 276-154-8. On four occasions his team earned state championships and was runners up six times. His accomplishments with individual wrestlers are truly amazing. He has coached 46 wrestlers to State Championships, 31 state runners-up, 10 third place finishers, and 4 Outstanding Wrestlers awards. Goles has coached seven wrestlers to heavyweight titles with Bill Oberly earning a National Championship at Penn State. All of these accomplishments are even more significant in that John Goles never wrestled as a contestant. In recognition of his success as a wrestling coach, the Easton-Times Express selected him as one of the "Top 100 Sports People" in the Lehigh Valley Area. The Star-Ledger selected him as the all centuries Wrestling Coach of the 1950's.

Richard Matarante**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

Dick Matarante began his involvement with wrestling at Union High School where he credits wrestling coach Walt Shallcross with planting the seed of wrestling, a seed of love for the sport. Dick had a teaching career that spanned four different high schools: Saint Aloysius, Seton Hall Prep., Governor Livingston, and ultimately Wallkill Valley where he served as Supervisor of Health and Physical Education. Dick coached football, wrestling, and baseball at the high school level and endeared himself to students with his positive attitude and engaging personality. An accomplished football official, Dick shines equally as well as an outstanding wrestling official. Dick worked the State Tournament finals for ten consecutive years. He was especially sought after to officiate some of the most competitive dual meets throughout the state. His love of wrestling and need to

become involved in the ongoing process of improving younger officials found him developing and monitoring an extremely effective cadet program to help officials gain the skills for future success. He helped craft a program to ensure that young officials would be prepared. Recognized for his ability as an official, Dick received the prestigious Richard C. Mirshak Award for Excellence in Officiating the very first year the award was presented. The National Federation Officials Association honored him as the Official of the Year in 2000, and he received the National Federation of Interscholastic Officials' Association's "Distinguished Service Award" in 1991 for his contribution to the improvement of sports officials.

Gerard R Sachsel

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Jerry Sachsel is an athlete and scholar. A graduate of Jonathan Dayton High School, he earned a BA from Notre Dame and a Masters degree in Constitutional History from Seton Hall. He ran cross-country in high school and was selected to the Star-Ledger All Century team representing the decade of the 50's. An outstanding wrestler, he earned a high school record of 52 wins and 1 loss while winning the 106-pound state championship in 1955 and 1956. At Notre Dame he compiled a record of 42-4-2 and earned the distinction of being the first NCAA qualifier from Notre Dame where he was team captain. He has the distinction of being undefeated in dual meet competition in both high school and college: 60-0-2. In coaching, Jerry started the wrestling program at Millburn High School where in fifteen years his teams posted a combined record of 155-22-3. The record included five undefeated teams, three Essex County Tournament Teams, eight District Team titles, fourteen individual Region Champions, and three State Champions. Jerry Sachsel's statistics are impressive. But winning with him was never the only thing. He always held high expectations for his wrestlers both on and off the mat. He instilled in his athletes competitiveness, technique, conditioning but of equal importance was integrity, compassion, and honesty. Through wrestling, his students learned life values that are imbedded in their character.

John Welch

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

John Welch's interest in wrestling began at an early age when he competed on the living room floor with his brother, Charles. He started wrestling officially at North Hunterdon High School under legendary coach Harold VanDermarck. John wrestled at Rutgers where he captained the team and he continued his participation as an Air Force Captain winning the Air Force Championship on two occasions. He began his success in coaching at Ridge High School where he earned an enviable record as the Head Coach for eighteen years. His overall record is 209-81-3 including thirteen conference team championships and two State Group II team Championships. His wrestlers individually amassed an impressive record: 60 District Champs, 28 Region Champs, 7 State Champs and 6-second place winners. Five of his wrestlers earned over 100 wins in their careers. Perhaps most satisfying of all, his two sons, John and Peter, won State Championships when he was their coach. John's support and promotion of wrestling has made an effect on the local, state, national, and international level.

**National Wrestling Hall of Fame
New Jersey Chapter
Class of 2004**

Francis Dunn

State Medal of Courage

Francis won the New Jersey Wrestling Championship in 1992 while wrestling for Boonton High School. With a high school record of 111-9 he attended Rider University. At Rider, Francis was a Conference Champion in 1994 and 1995 selected as the Most Valuable wrestler in 1995. During the summer of 1995 Francis was in a life threatening vehicular accident in which he suffered a severely broken leg that required a steel rod to be placed through the entire femur with pins on both ends of his leg. That rod remains in his leg today. Francis remained in critical condition for several days. His opportunity to wrestle ever again seemed out of the question. But Francis had other ideas. Lying in his hospital bed, he explained to his coaches that not only would he wrestle again but that he would become a Division I All American fulfilling his dream. He returned to college in a wheel chair and things seemed bleak. After several months, he began to walk on crutches and ever so slowly began to practice first with his coaches and then with his teammates. With courage and determination, Francis pushed himself fighting through pain and exhaustion His coaches watched in amazement as Francis improved daily. Finally, in his senior year he realized his dream, finishing eighth in the 1997 NCAA Championship at 142 pounds wrestling with a rod and a pin in his leg. He was and is an inspiration to his teammates and coaches, a man of courage.

Sal Cascio

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Sal Cascio has established an outstanding record as the wrestling coach of Bergenfield High School. He attended Leonia High School where he began his wrestling and served as captain of his team in both 1948 and 1949. Initially, Sal coached at Fairleigh Dickson University, but it was his coaching at Bergenfield High School that brought him honor and distinction. Among some of his accomplishments include an overall dual meet record of 86-36-1, a 52 dual meet unbeaten streak, 4 consecutive undefeated seasons, 5 consecutive District championships, and 4 consecutive Bergen County titles. He has coached 36 District Champions, 14 Region Champions and 4 State Champions. In one year Bergenfield had 7 wrestlers win Region titles, one of the proudest moments in his coaching career; but perhaps his biggest milestone in wrestling was seeing Eddie Kochakji win his third State title and second Outstanding Wrestler Award. The impact of Sal Cascio on the lives of his wrestlers cannot be measured in terms of wins or losses. His influence among many young men goes far beyond the wrestling mat. He believed that wrestling helps young people find their personal identity. "Give me a boy," he explained, "a good boy or a bad boy, and I will give you a respectable gentleman." And that he did.

Bob Dalling Sr.**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

Bob Dalling is one of the founding fathers of wrestling in New Jersey. He wrestled at Blair Academy and captained the team in 1929. At Lehigh University he won the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Championship in both 1932 and 1933 wrestling in the 126 pound class. In the years he wrestled at Lehigh when bouts often were decided without a point being scored by a referee's decision, he won over 50% of his matches by fall. His devotion to wrestling is legendary. As a student at Lehigh he not only wrestled for the University but simultaneously coached three days a week at Blair Academy. In the days before Route 80 and Route 33 he drove from college in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Blairstown, New Jersey. The trip probably took two hours one way. This was the beginning of a long and successful relationship with Blair. He led the program for 32 years. His team had a stretch of 23 consecutive wins and was considered the best team in New Jersey. Dalling coached eight National Prep School Champions, and 28 National Prep place winners. A modest, unassuming man, Dalling's coaching style combined an unwavering devotion to both his students and the sport of wrestling seasoned with a wonderful sense of humor. He was a superb teacher, a great competitor, a man of integrity respected by wrestlers and coaches alike.

Gary Kehler**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

Gary Kehler has distinguished himself as an educator, coach, and athletic director at Westfield. His name is synonymous with Westfield High School athletics. From 1957, when he joined the Westfield football staff, until he retired in 1993 as the director of athletics he accomplished a stunning record. His football, wrestling, and golf teams combined for a record of 732-115-23, a .864 winning percentage. In football Gary's teams recorded 172 wins, 26 losses and 7 ties including nine undefeated teams and a 48 game unbeaten streak which remains the longest undefeated streak in New Jersey history. In wrestling his teams are no less imposing. His twenty-four season's record is 232-37-10. This includes winning 14 Watchung Conference titles, 16 District Championships and 22 Christmas and Union County Championships. Individually, he has coached 111 District Champions, 24 Region Champions, and 12 State Champions. He has been honored as Coach of the Year by the New York Daily News, Newark Evening News, The Elizabeth Journal, and Sports Illustrated. Gary has been selected as a Charter member of the Westfield Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

John Pepe**Lifetime Service to Wrestling**

John Pepe graduated from Plainfield High School and Penn State University where he excelled in a variety of sports, most notably in wrestling and boxing. His athletic achievements are truly remarkable. In wrestling John never lost a dual meet bout in high school or prep school and lost only one dual meet in college. He was a high school State Champion, New Jersey AAU Champion, National Prep School Champion, Eastern

Intercollegiate Champion and placed second the third in the NCAA Championship. He was recognized at Penn State as a two time All American. His athletic talents extend beyond the wrestling mat as evinced when he entered and won the college boxing championship. Following college, John played professional football with the New Jersey Oaks when he weighed perhaps 150 pounds. Nevertheless, his teammates selected him team captain and twice he received the league MVP. John began coaching wrestling as an assistant at Union High School in 1957, moving the next year to Plainfield High School where he settled in for 11 years as head coach earning a significant reputation as an excellent wrestling coach. His teams won five District titles with his wrestlers winning 52 individual District titles, 10 Region titles, and 4 State Championships. When his coaching days ended, John turned to officiating where he quickly became one of the premier officials in the state working all levels of the tournament series. Before his retirement in 1994, John served as the Plainfield Superintendent of Recreation for twenty-three years promoting wrestling for Plainfield young people.

C. Norman Winter

Lifetime Service to Wrestling

Norm Winter wrestled in high school for Walt Shallcross, a Hall of Fame member and at Rutgers for Dick Voliva, an NCAA and Olympic champion. These men nurtured his interest in wrestling, an interest that would continue for over 50 years. In college Norm was a consummate team player, often providing the leadership needed to ensure victory. In recognition of his accomplishments Norm received the prestigious Wilfred E. Cann Award which is presented to a senior member of the wrestling team who has demonstrated merit as a wrestler by his acts of self denial, conditioning, inspiration, and sportsmanship. These characteristics Norm carried over to his coaching experience at Piscataway High School, a new school with no background in wrestling. Through Norm's commitment to young people and his unbounded enthusiasm, wrestling developed to the extent that now when someone mentions Piscataway sports, wrestling immediately comes to mind. Norm has a career record of 201-26-5 with five undefeated teams, no losing seasons, and 27 team championships. These include 4 Middlesex County, 11 District, 10 Mid-State Conference as well as the Phillipsburg and Caldwell Classics. His teams ranked in the top 20 ten times. Individually, he coached 90 District Champions, 13 Region Champions, and 3 State titlist. That he was a skilled coach there can be no doubt, but more than that Norm taught values. He led by example. His teams were always prepared and competed intensely to win, but sportsmanship and integrity prevailed. Norm Winter has made a distinct mark on New Jersey wrestling. When he began coaching only six schools had a wrestling program in Middlesex County. Today, with his encouragement and leadership, some 30 schools in the Greater Middlesex Conference participate in wrestling. His service to the sport is second to none.

The National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum, New Jersey Board of Directors would like to thank those listed below for their contributions made in honor of this year's award recipients. Your continued support of the sport of wrestling gives hope for its future.

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